

The international searching authority has determined that this international Application contains a plurality of (groups of) inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1-3, 5-7, 9-13, 15-17 (if not dependent from Claims 4, 8, 14)

transmission and its housing

2. Claims: 4, 8 (if exclusively dependent from Claim 1)

type of motor and sensor

3. Claim: 14 (if exclusively dependent from Claim 1)

modulation of information

The three groups of claims are neither interconnected by a common inventive idea (Rule 13 (1) PCT), nor do they possess common, special technical features, which define a contribution of each claimed invention as a whole over the related art (Rule 13 (2) PCT). The reasons are as follows:

The subject matter of independent Claim 1 is not novel in the spirit of Rule 33 (2) PCT and therefore does not include any special technical features.

Document DE 199 13 833 (D1) discloses a compact drive (column 4, line 43),

comprising at least an electric motor, a transmission (column 3, lines 35-38) and a frequency converter (column 4, lines 22-23, 37-38),

wherein the drive shaft of the transmission and the rotor shaft are parallel to each other, and the shaft-center distance of at least one transmission stage is determined (Fig. 1, 2; ?reduction gear? 7 is a transmission stage).

The subject matter of Claim 1 is not novel (Rule 33 (2) PCT) and therefore does not contain any special technical features. It should be pointed out that the proof of no special technical features in Claim 1 may also be deduced from document EP 1 049 234 (D2), e.g. Figures 3, 5, 7, 9.

The remaining claims dependent from the unnovel Claim 1 contain three inventions, which neither possess common, special technical features, nor are interconnected by a common inventive idea:

Invention 1:

Special technical feature (Claim 3): The transmission stage is designed as a variable transmission.

Invention 2:

Special technical feature (Claim 4): The electric motor is a synchronous motor and/or a permanent-magnet motor.

Invention 3:

Special technical feature (Claim 14): The compact drive includes at least an electronic circuit for modulating or demodulating information upon [onto] the load leads.

Therefore, the three inventions do not contain any common, special technical features (Rule 13 (2) PCT).

If one examines the claims in view of common features relating to a technical effect, one determines that the following technical effects occur for the individual inventions:

Invention 1: continuously variable transmission.

Invention 2: high-output motor.

Invention 3: data transmission without additional connecting lines.

The more compact design of a drive can be seen as a common technical effect of inventions 1-3. However, this effect is known to one skilled in the art. Therefore, inventions 1-3 are not interconnected by a single inventive idea (Rule 13.1 PCT).